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TA/FEACES Barium Event Jan: Quick-Look Field Report of "In Situ" Febe Measurements

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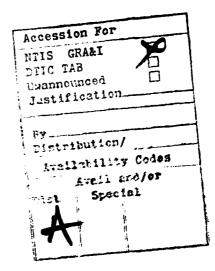
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DNA/PLACES BARIUM EVENT JAN: QUICK-LOOK FIELD REPORT OF "IN SITU" PROBE MEASUREMENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

At 2311:00 (GMT) on 12 December 1980, a 48 kg barium payload was launched from the Λ -15 site of Eglin/Santa Rosa Island Test Range. The barium was released in the F₁-region of the ionosphere at 2313:42.1 and at an altitude of 182.7 km.

At 2342:50.8 a second rocket was launched, carrying a plasma diagnostic complement which included a pair of pulsed-plasma-probes and an ion mass spectrometer for direct measurements of electron density N_e , temperature T_e , density fluctuation δN_e , associated density fluctuation power spectra $P_n(k)$, and ion composition M_i . The probe payload penetrated the highest density region (i.e., the highest density observed along the payload's trajectory) of the barium ion cloud at 2344:40.8, a time defined as R+31 MIN. The barium release and all associated measurements have been designated by code name JAN.

This report presents quick-look field analyses of the pulsed-plasma-probe data. A brief description will be given on the probe instrumentation, vehicle/payload performance, and "in situ" observations of plasma densities and structure in the ambient ionosphere and throughout the intense barium ion cloud structure.

II. PROBE INSTRUMENTATION, PAYLOAD CONFIGURATION

AND OVERALL SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

A pair of pulsed-plasma-probes were diametrically deployed from the forward-most lateral surface of the payload.

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The payload's ACS was designed to maintain the vehicle axis parallel to the geomagnetic field throughout flight...a condition which optimized data integrity from points of view focused on magnetic-field and vehicle aspect perturbations. Initial results indicate that the ACS functioned according to design. Table 1 lists timer functions and altitudes related to the plasma instrumentation on the probe payload while Figure 1 presents the payload trajectory (alt vs time) as determined by a single station radar solution. The Figure was constructed from the trajectory data listed in Table 2.

The pulsed-plasma-probe $^{1-4}$ is a specially designed Langmuir technique which eliminates distortions of the measurement procedure known to degrade the conventional approach to Langmuir probe measurements. In addition, the pulsed probe technique makes possible the determination of absolute electron density under fluctuating plasma conditions and simultaneously determines the electron density N_e , temperature T_e , density fluctuations δN_e , associated power spectra $P_n(k)$ and mean ion mass M_i . The probe's highest resolution capability in event JAN involved δN_e , with resolution down to scale sizes equal to 0.5 meters at a lkm/sec payload velocity.

III. ELECTRON DENSITY PROFILES

The relative electron density profile observed "in situ" by the pulsed probe measurement of baseline electron current I_B^e (See e.g., Ref. 1 or 2) is presented in Figure 2.

The abscissa is expressed as seconds-after-launch, extending over the domain $t_0+75 \leq t$ [sec] $\leq t_0+373$; while the ordinate is log (Ie). The barium ion cloud was encountered on the upleg portion of the trajectory at $t \approx 99.5$ sec (ALT ≈ 145 Km). Peak densities within the cloud were observed at $t \approx 100$ sec (ALT ≈ 155 Km). For t > 135 sec the probe continued relative density measurements within the undisturbed background ionosphere to an apogee of 241 Km (t = 245 sec). (That Ie) is a reasonable representation of relative electron density without major distortions from aspect sensitivities and/or vehicle potential effects has been verified by a simultaneous measurement of baseline ion saturation currents Ie) shown in Figure 3. For discussions relative to this point see References 4 and 5.)

To establish initial estimates of absolute electron densities, I-V characteristics generated by the pulsed sweep currents (See e.g., Ref. 3) were hand analyzed at three positions within the cloud. The results indicated a simple I_B^e to N_e conversion according to

 $N_{\rm g}({\rm cm}^{-3}) = 5.62 (10^{10}) I_{\rm B}^{\rm e} ({\rm amps})$

with an estimated accuracy of \pm 32%. More exact analyses will result in absolute density determinations with a better than 10% accuracy. This conversion has been applied to Figure 2, resulting in initial estimates of peak barium ion densities (t \gtrsim 110 sec, ALT = 155 km) of 7.3(10⁶)cm⁻³. This value represents an enhancement of 300 over ambient

ionospheric conditions at that altitude. An expanded view of the ion cloud domain (95 < t (sec) < 135) is shown in Figure 4 while Table 3 lists densities, altitudes and coordinates of specific observations relevant to a first-order view of the ion cloud and the background ionosphere.

Table 1 — Timer Events Related to the Plasma Instrumentation on the Probe Payload

		•		
TIME		EVENT	ALTITUDE	(Nom.)
t _o = 2342:50.8		Launch	0	
t _o + 66		Nose Cone Separation Probe Door Deploy	90	Km
t _o + 76	ъ)	Payload Separation ACS ON Mass Spec RF ON	105	Km
t _o + 78		Yo-Yo Despin	110	Km
t _o + 80		Probe Deploy	112	Km
t _o + 93		Mass Spec HV ON	120	Km
t _o + 108		ACS de-activate	152	Km
t + 166		ACS Re-activate	213	Km

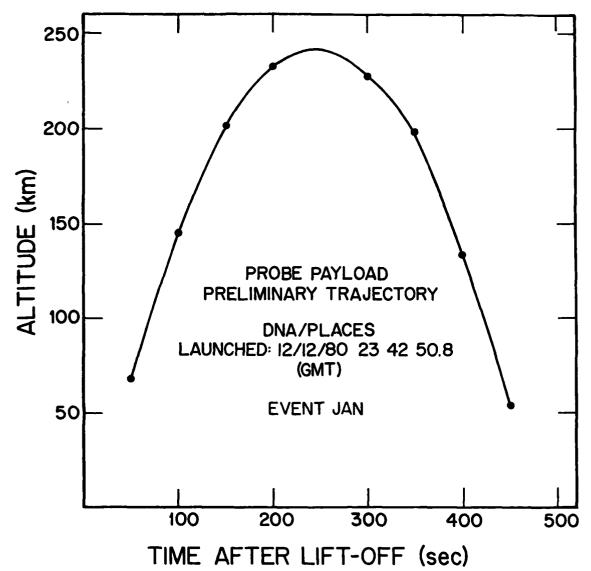


Fig. 1 - Probe payload trajectory from single radar station solution (See Table 2)

Table 2 — Event JAN Probe Payload Trajectory Information Excerpted from a Single Station Radar Solution Prior to Smoothing

	1	Km/Sec	2.05	1.65	1.29	1.04	0.94	0.94	1.05		1.68	2.31	
	VEL	Ft/Sec	6721	5401	4245	3407	3100	3100	3452		5505	7577	
-	LONG		86.8274	86.8717	86.9211	86.9735	87.0227	87.0277	87.0830	87.3808	87.1935	87.2469	
ao.	LAT		30.0855	29.6615	29.2428	28.8321	28.464	28.4265	28.0193	27.6732	27.1886	26.7800	
	RANGE	K	76.64	167.31	238.71	291.46	325.28	328.09	352.19	368.53	384.03	407.36	
gring of total tributes of the company		Ft.	251,479 76.64	549,004 167.31	783,270 238.71	956,354 291.46	1,067,348 325.28	241.13 1,076,545 328.09	1,115,627 352.19	1,209,267 368.53	1,260,127 384.03	54.29 1,336,673 407.36	
	ALTITUDE	KA	68.83	146.05	200.63	232.11	241.22	241.13	227.91	198.22	133.24	54.29	
	ALT	Ft.	225,862	479,240	658,330	761,631	791,530	791,208	747,856	650,406	437,197	178,136	
	GMT		2343:40.8	2344:30.8	2345:20.8	2346:10.8	2346:56.1	2347:0.8	2347:50.8	2348:40.8	2349:30.8	2350:18.7	
	TIME AFTER LIFT-OFF	(SEC)	90	100	150	200	245.3	250	300	350	400	877	

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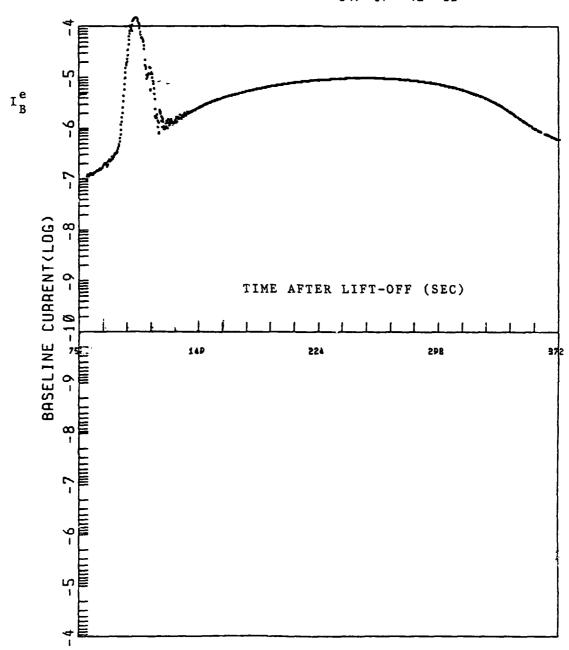


Fig 2 - Relative electron density profile as measured by baseline electron current I_B^e as a function of seconds after launch. Absolute electron densities can be estimated from the conversion N_e [cm⁻³] = 5.62(10¹⁰) I_B^e [amps]. See text for statement of accuracy.

DNA PLACES-NRL E PROBELIFT UP TIME 347 17 42 50

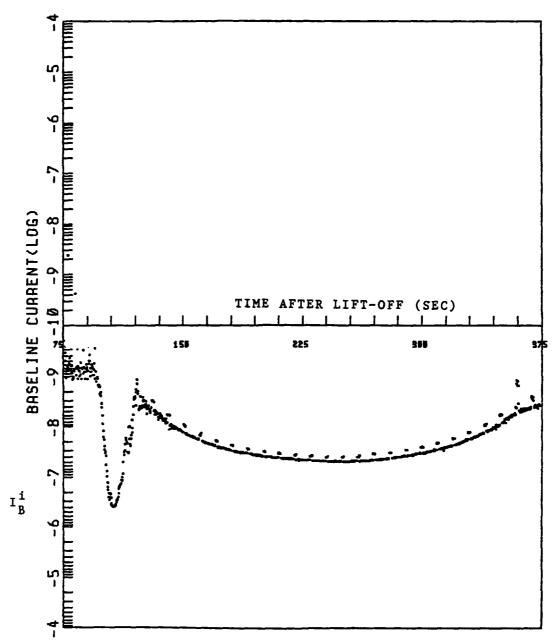


Fig. 3 - Relative electron density profile as measured by baseline ion current I_B^i as a function of seconds after launch. Note that ion current increases downward. Agreement between Figures 2 and 3 establishes credibility in the I_B^e measurements as a reasonable representation of relative density (See text).

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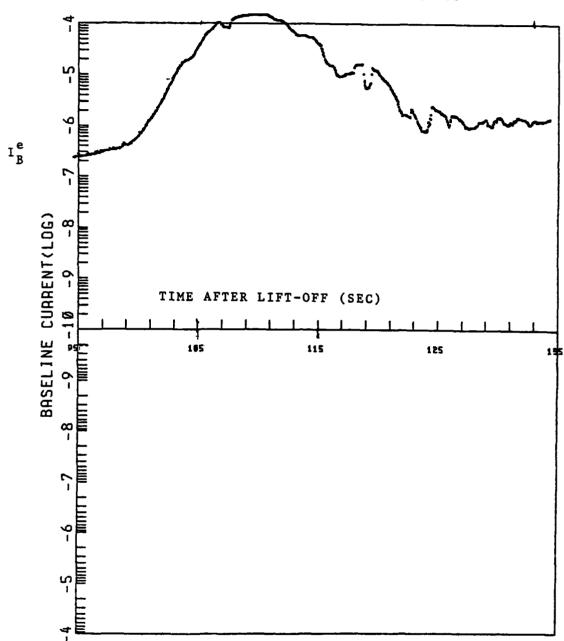


Fig 4 - An expanded view of the barium ion cloud density profile as measured by baseline electron currents. Absolute electron densities can be estimated within an accuracy of \pm 32% (detailed analyses will yield \pm 10% or better) by the conversion N_e [cm⁻³] = 5.62 (10¹⁰) I_B^e [amps].

Table 3 — Summary of Relevant Plasma Densities and Coordinates

LONG	86.870	86.880	86.90	87.022	
LAT	145 29.67°	155 29.58°	185 29.41 ⁰	28.468	
ALT KM	145	155	185	241	
ENSITY BARIUM	@ 103	7.3(10 ⁶)	@ 10 ²	0	
ELECTRON DENSITY IONOSPHERE BARIUM	1.7(104)	2.4(10 ⁴)	5.6(10 ⁴)	5.6(10 ⁵)	
SEC AFTER LAUNCH	99.5	110	135	245	
POINT OF INTEREST	Cloud Entry	Cloud Peak	Cloud Exit	Apogee	

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